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FAX COVER SHEET

June 21, 2006

DELL	VER	TO:	PUC

FAX #: 605-773-3809

FROM: Bill Taylor

MESSAGE:

RE: In the Matter of the Merger Between Northwestern Corporation and BBI Glacier Corp., a Subsidiary of Babcock & Brown Infrastructure

Limited DOCKET NO. GE06-001

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Justin G. Smith

June 21, 2006

William Taylor Bill.Taylor@woodsfuller.com

<u>VIA FACSIMILE AND U.S. MAIL</u> 605-773-3809

Public Utilities Commission Capitol Building, 1st floor 500 East Capitol Avenue Pierre, SD 57501-5070

Re: In the Matter of the Merger Between Northwestern Corporation and BBI Glacier Corp., a Subsidiary of Babcock & Brown Infrastructure Limited DOCKET NO. GE06-001

Dear Public Utilities Commission:

Enclosed herewith is South Dakota Power Company's Petition to Intervene in regard to the above-referenced matter. The original and ten copies will follow in the mail. Please file the fax copy today. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

WOODS, FULLER, SHULTZ & SMITH P.C.

William Taylor

Enclosures

cc: David A. Gerdes
Brett Koenecke
Thomas J. Knapp
Patrick Corcoran
Pam Bonrud
Michael Garland
Nancy Zajac
Curt Bernhard
Yvonne Taylor

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

DOCKET NO. GE06-001

IN THE MATTER OF THE MERGER

BETWEEN NORTHWESTERN

CORPORATION AND BBI GLACIER

CORP., A SUBSIDIARY OF BABCOCK &

BROWN INFRASTRUCTURE LIMITED

SOUTH DAKOTA POWER COMPANY'S PETITION TO INTERVENE

South Dakota Power Company respectfully petitions the Public Utilities

Commission of the State of South Dakota for leave to intervene in the above captioned matter.

1. Facts

Petitioner, South Dakota Power Company ("SDPC"), is a nonprofit corporation formed under South Dakota law and headquartered in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

SDPC's Board of Directors is populated by representatives of a variety of public interests in South Dakota. The corporation is chaired by Curt Bernard, mayor of Yankton, South Dakota.

SDPC was formed for the purpose of acquiring Northwestern's South Dakota assets, to assure, in light of Northwestern's then-recent bankruptcy, adequate, efficient and reasonable provision of electric and gas services in South Dakota. SDPC, in conjunction with Montana Public Power, Incorporated, a similar nonprofit corporation formed in Montana, exhaustively studied the business operation and financial affairs of Northwestern Corporation commencing in the fall of 2004 and ending when

Northwestern accepted the offer to merge/sell that is the subject of Northwestern's proceedings in this matter. Based on its study of Northwestern, SDPC is uniquely situated to comment on the business, finances and business activities and prospects of Northwestern in South Dakota.

Law Supporting Intervention

SDCL 49-1-11(4) permits the Public Utilities Commission to make rules regarding proceedings before the Commission. SDCL 1-26-17.1 permits intervention in administrative proceedings by persons who are not original parties. The administrative rules of the Public Utilities Commission implement those statutes.

ARSD 20:10:01:15.02, permits persons not an original party to a proceeding before the Commission to petition to intervene. ARSD 20:10:01:15.05 provides, in part,

A petition to intervene shall be granted by the commission if the petitioner shows that the petitioner . . . by the outcome of the proceeding . . . will be bound and affected either favorably or adversely with respect to an interest peculiar to the petitioner as distinguished from an interest common to the public or the taxpayers in general . . .

SDPC, a public interest non-profit corporation directed by representatives of municipalities that rely on Northwestern for utility service and other persons interested in public power in South Dakota, is interested in assuring that the scope of Public Utility Commission regulatory authority not be artificially narrowed, in particular to guarantee that actions of the stockholders of an investor owed utility company are appropriately controlled so as to assure that the public interest in safe, stable and reliable electrical

energy is protected. On those grounds and for those reasons, SDPC asserts that it has standing to be admitted as an intervener in the proceedings on Northwestern Corporation's request for declaratory ruling.

The continued economic viability of Northwestern Corporation and its concomitant ability to provide adequate, efficient and reasonable utility service to the cities it serves is vitally important to SDPC. On those grounds and for those reasons, SDPC asserts that it has standing to be admitted as an intervener in the proceedings on Northwestern Corporation's request for approval of its merger/sale.

3. SDPC's Position on the Merits

SDPC will advocate that the Public Utility Commission has jurisdiction over the proposed merger/sale of Northwestern Corporation to protect adequate, efficient and reasonable public utility service in South Dakota.

SDPC will advocate that the Public Utility Commission must review the proposed merger/sale of Northwestern Corporation to determine if the surviving company can bear the financial burden of the acquisition without adverse impact on public utility service in South Dakota, and to condition approval of the transaction with reasonable assurances that provision of adequate, efficient and reasonable public utility service in South Dakota is protected.

WHEREFORE, SDPC respectfully requests the Commission enter its order

- A. Setting a schedule for briefing and a date for hearing on this petition to intervene;
- B. Upon hearing, allow SDPC to intervene as a party to the declaratory judgment proceeding;
- C. Setting a schedule for discovery, motions, briefing and trial of the declaratory judgment proceeding;
- D. In the event the Commission declares that it has jurisdiction over the proposed merger and sale of applicant Northwestern Corporation, allowing SDPC to intervene as a party to the proceedings on Northwestern Corporation's petition for approval of the proposed merger and sale; and any other further relief the Commission deems appropriate under the circumstances.

Dated this 21st day of June, 2006.

WOODS, FULLER, SHULTZ & SMITH P.C.

By____

William Taylor

300 South Phillips Avenue, Suite 300

Post Office Box 5027

Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57117-5027

(605)336-3890

Attorneys for Intervener South Dakota Power Company

Contact Information for South Dakota Power Company Curt Bernard, Chairman Yvonne Taylor, Secretary 23322 305th Avenue Presho, SD 57568

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on the 21st day of June, 2006, I sent by United States mail, postage prepaid, a true and correct copy of the foregoing Petition to Intervene to the following:

David A. Gerdes May, Adam, Gerdes & Thompson LLP 503 S. Pierre St. P.O. Box 160 Pierre, SD 57501-0160 Attorneys for NorthWestern Corporation

Brett Koenecke May, Adam, Gerdes & Thompson LLP 503 S. Pierre St. P.O. Box 160 Pierre, SD 57501-0160 Attorneys for Babcock & Brown Infrastructure Limited

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One of the Attorneys for the Intervener